

# **FAMILY DEVOTIONAL**

**THEME:** Including Others

**SCRIPTURE:** Galatians 3:26-28

**PREPARATION:** You will need a Bible, chairs and/or tables to make a fort, a large blanket or sheet and a bowl of treats. Make the fort before you start the devotional and hide the treats behind the fort.

## **THE OBJECT LESSON**

Have any of you ever built a fort before? I've noticed how much kids like to build forts. A fort is a special place. You can have secret meetings and share special treats in a fort. And moms, dads, and maybe certain other kids usually aren't invited.

I've built my own fort today, and I'd like to invite some of you to come inside. I only have room for (X) kids, so some of you won't be able to come in. Sorry about that. Let's see...who should I invite? (*Choose X kids at random*). I'm sorry but the rest of you will just have to wait here while we go into my special fort. (*Lead the children into the fort*).

Well, here we are. Aren't you glad you got invited to my fort? (let children respond) It's certainly dark in here. Did anyone bring a flashlight? No? Well, it's still fun. Where are the treats? Did anyone bring treats? No? Well, I'm sure we can have fun without them. What? You're hot? Yes, it's a little crowded in the fort, but just think how lucky you are to be inside. Some kids didn't even get to come in.

(Pause for a moment) What? You don't want to be in here anymore? But I invited you into my fort. Don't you feel special? (let children respond). Well, I sort of miss the other kids too. Maybe we should go outside. (lead children outside)

Whew! It was a little squished inside my fort, and I missed all of you kids out here. I guess being in my fort wasn't as nice as we thought it would be.

In Paul's time, some Christians thought they were better than others, so they built a kind of fort to keep the others out. But Paul wrote them a letter to remind them that Jesus died for everybody. (Read the Galatians verses)

God doesn't want us hiding in forts! God invites all people to come into his kingdom, not only people just like us. In God's kingdom, we all enjoy one another's special gifts together. And that's better than hiding away in a dark fort any day!

## **PRAYER**

God, we thank you for giving us so many different kinds of people to be in your kingdom. We thank you for men and women, young and old, and those of every race and nation. Help us to welcome everyone into your kingdom and your church. Amen. (distribute treats to the children)

Devotion Adapted from: [http://www.livingfree.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=977:hypocrisy-examined-god-sees-your-heart&catid=40:completely-free&Itemid=203](http://www.livingfree.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=977:hypocrisy-examined-god-sees-your-heart&catid=40:completely-free&Itemid=203)